




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF PREVENTION, PESTICIDES
AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES

July 18, 2007

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Effects Determinations for Methomyl Relative to the California Red-Legged Frog and Designated Critical Habitat

FROM: Melissa Panger, Ph.D.  7-18-07
ERB 4
Environmental Fate and Effects Division

TO: Arthur-Jean B. Williams, Associate Director
Environmental Fate and Effects Division

Attached is the assessment of potential direct and indirect effects to the California red-legged frog (CRLF) and potential adverse modification to designated critical habitat from uses of the insecticide methomyl. While the Endangered Species Act requires we assess uses of pesticides relative to any potentially affected listed species, this assessment focuses only on the CRLF, including designated critical habitat, addressing provisions of a settlement agreement entered into by the federal government to resolve claims made by plaintiffs against EPA in a court case (CBD v. EPA¹).

The attached assessment was conducted consistent with the Agency's Overview Document². Effects determinations for this assessment are summarized below:

- A "may affect and likely to adversely affect" determination was concluded for the CRLF from many of the currently labeled uses of methomyl. This is based on the potential for direct effects (to both aquatic and terrestrial-phase CRLF), indirect effects due to potential decreases in aquatic and terrestrial prey items, and the potential for adversely modifying designated critical habitat due to a potential loss of aquatic and terrestrial prey items. For the definitive effects determination, please see Table 1 in the Executive Summary of the accompanying risk assessment.

As required by the Alternative Consultation Agreement EPA entered into with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service (Services), I have been trained by the Services to make such determinations. Additionally, this assessment was subjected to internal Agency peer review

¹ Settlement agreement of October 20, 2006: Center for Biological Diversity v. United States Environmental Protection Agency. Civ. No: 02-1580-JSW(JL)).

² Overview of the Ecological Risk Assessment: Process in the Office of Pesticide Programs, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Endangered and Threatened Species Effects Determinations: January 23, 2004.

throughout its development. The branch reviewers and review panel included 4 other scientists who have been trained by the Services to make such determinations (Elizabeth Behl, Shannon Borges, Edward Odenkirchen, Ph.D., and Thomas Steeger, Ph.D.).

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this assessment and effects determination for methomyl relative to the CRLF and its designated critical habitat.

cc: Steven Bradbury
Peter Caulkins

Attachments